

# NEWS RELEASE

# THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

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## **Clinton makes 'compassion a crime' with attack on medical marijuana**

### ***President strangely silent about Fed's own pot plantation***

WASHINGTON, DC — If you suffer from cancer, AIDS, or glaucoma, the president who claims to "feel your pain" is actually trying to make you more sick and more miserable, the Libertarian Party said today.

"By threatening to arrest and imprison doctors who prescribe marijuana to relieve pain and suffering, Bill Clinton has made compassion a crime," party Chairman Steve Dasbach said today. "He is mistaking political judgment for medical judgment, and thousands of sick and dying people will suffer needlessly as a result."

Clinton announced this week that the federal government would prosecute doctors in California and Arizona who attempt to prescribe medical marijuana to patients. Voters in those states made it legal for physicians to prescribe controlled substances when they passed referendums in November by wide margins — 65% in Arizona and 56% in California.

"Nevertheless, Clinton plans to override the will of the voters and invoke federal drug laws to prosecute doctors," Dasbach said.

The administration's plan includes jailing doctors and their patients for up to 10 years; revoking doctors' power to write prescriptions; and sending in federal agents to prosecute patients who argue that their marijuana was prescribed by a doctor.

Dasbach also pointed out that for the second time in two weeks, Clinton is using the power of the federal government to overturn a popularly enacted measure. On December 20, he declared that he would challenge the California Civil Rights Initiative, which 54% of voters approved in November.

"Clinton has shown an appalling eagerness to trample the will of the voters," Dasbach said.

Dasbach also noted the irony of the federal government, which itself runs a marijuana farm, prosecuting doctors for prescribing it. "The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Mississippi operates a seven-acre marijuana plantation in Oxford," Dasbach said. The facility has provided a group of victims of MS, glaucoma, and other ailments a monthly canister of marijuana cigarettes — at taxpayer expense — since the 1970s.

"In other words, Bill Clinton is authorizing the federal government to arrest and imprison doctors in Arizona and California for providing the same pain relievers the government itself is providing to people around the country," Dasbach said.

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